

MINUTES – REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, 10 MARCH 2025

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in-person at Barnet Fire & Rescue Station (151 Bimson Drive) and via GoToMeeting telephone/online conference. This meeting was recorded via GoToMeeting.

Board members participating:

- **In-person:** Dylan Ford (presiding co-chair), Benjamin Gates, and Benjamin Adams.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Other Town officials and employees participating:

- **In-person:** Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt, Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse, and Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** None.

Members of the public participating:

- **In-person:** Michael Gibson, and Steve Mosher.
- **Via GoToMeeting online video conference:** Mona Marceau.

Approval of Minutes

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held 24 February 2025

- Mr. Gates moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held 24 February 2025. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Organization of the Board

2. Appoint Chair

- Mr. Adams moved to appoint Co-Chairs of Benjamin Gates and Dylan Ford. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

3. Appoint Road Commissioner(s)

- Mr. Adams moved to appoint Benjamin Gates as Road Commissioner. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

4. Appoint Tree Warden

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint Stanley Robinson as Tree Warden. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

5. Appoint Town Attorney

- Mr. Gates moved to table the appointment of a Town Attorney. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

6. Appoint Grand Juror

- Mr. Gates moved to appoint David Willis as Grand Juror. Seconded by Mr. Adams approved by voice vote.

7. Appoint Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Supervisor and Alternate

- Mr. Adams moved to appoint William Douglas as Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Supervisor and to appoint Bruce Marston as Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District Alternate. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote.

8. Set date and time of meetings

- Mr. Gates moved to continue to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

Appearances by Members of the Public

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, annual review of Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

The Board reviewed a list and a map of town highways, or sections thereof, requested. Discussion ensued. The Board indicated that this request is for the same access as was granted in 2024 and several years prior. The Board members indicated that they had not received any complaints about operation of ATVs on town highways during the 2024 season. Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club President Steve Mosher appeared and indicated that the Club would like to retract its request for access on Anderson Street, leaving all other access requested unchanged. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to renew the Ordinance for Regulating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) as adopted in 2010, with changes only in the modification of permitted town highway use, this new permitted use being as requested by the Barnet Trailblazers ATV Club at this Board meeting, to include all or a portion of Barnet Center Road, Bony Woods Road, Brook Hill Road, Chamberlain Road, Cloud Brook Road, Ferguson Road, Garland Hill Road, Gilfillan Road, Goss Hill Road, Joe's Brook Road, Keyser Hill Road, Knights Lane, Little Scotland Road, McLaren Hill Road, Morse's Mill Road, Roy Mountain Road, Water Andric Road, West Barnet Road, West Main Street, and Whitehill Rd. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

10. Appearance by resident Jeffrey Pratt regarding stream alteration in Passumpsic Village

Mr. Pratt did not appear at this meeting. In his absence, the Board discussed his request that the Town make repairs to an emergency stream alteration installed near his home in the immediate aftermath of the July 2024 flood.

- The Board agreed that it will inspect the site and make repairs as appropriate and duly permitted or allowed by proper State authorities.

11. Other business presented by members of the public

a. Appearance by resident Michael Gibson regarding Stevens River

Mr. Gibson asked the Board to consider making a stream alteration to the Stevens River in the vicinity of his residence on Anderson Street.

- The Board agreed that it would ask proper authorities at Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to inspect the site and provide guidance.

b. Appearance by resident Michael Gibson regarding town-owned property on Anderson Street

Mr. Gibson expressed interest in purchasing the property owned by the Town and located along Anderson Street; the property abuts Mr. Gibson's.

- No action was taken.

Appearances by Town Officers

12. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

Mr. Chase did not appear at this meeting. In his absence, the Board discussed the following matters:

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, applications for Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits

- The Board reviewed and approved the fleet applications of Connecticut Valley Trucking Inc., HB Logging LLC & HB Trucking LLC, NA Manosh Inc., r.k. Miles Inc., S.D. Ireland, and Thomson Fuels LLC.

b. Other business

No other business was discussed.

13. Appearance by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden regarding notices of violation of zoning bylaws; take any action

Ms. Warden indicated there are notices of violation of the zoning bylaws she has issued from which she has received no response. As she is retiring soon, she would like to make a record of these lingering violations. She suggested that she record them in the town's land records. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to approve the recording of notices of violation in the land records.

14. Other business presented by other town officers

There was no other business presented by other town officers.

New Business

15. Consideration of, and take any action on, Green Up Day operations at Transfer Station

Ms. Ford discussed plans for Green Up Day (3 May 2025), stating that the library will host a gathering for volunteers. She suggested that the Transfer Station accept Green Up Day bags at no charge on April 26, May 3, and May 10.

- The Board agreed to approve the Transfer Station accepting Green Up Day bags at no charge on April 26, May 3, and May 10.

16. Consideration of, and take any action on, request for proposals for mowing town properties

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt asked for the Board's instruction regarding RFPs for 2025 mowing of properties.

- The Board agreed to place an advertisement in the Caledonian-Record and to send RFPs directly to several local mowing contractors and those with whom the Town has recently done business.

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse asked about brush-hogging the Fire & Rescue Station property along its Bimson Drive frontage.

- The Board agreed that it would take action to ensure that this work is completed, but not to include it in the regular mowing contract.

17. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposals for short-term flood-recovery financing

The Board reviewed documentation of the Town's current cash flow status. The Board also reviewed advice received from Vermont League of Cities & Towns and documents from Vermont Bond Bank and Passumpsic Savings Bank. Vermont Bond Bank offers an application for Municipal Climate

Recovery Fund Loans for flood-related financing at an interest rate of 1.30%. Passumpsic Savings Bank offers re-financing of the Town's current flood-recovery line of credit, for a total refinanced line of credit of \$2.5 million at an interest rate of 5.15%. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to approve re-financing of the Town's current flood-recovery line of credit with Passumpsic Bank for a total refinanced line of credit of \$2.5 million at an interest rate 5.15%. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Gates moved to apply to Vermont Bond Bank for a Municipal Climate Recovery Fund Loan for flood-related financing at an interest rate of 1.30%. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote.

18. Consideration of, and take any action on, approval of expenses for Planning Commission/Zoning Board email and remote meeting access

Mr. Adams, a Planning Commission/Zoning Board Co-Chair, stated that the candidate for the Zoning Administrative Officer position had inquired about obtaining a town email address and about arrangements for remote meeting access. The Board reviewed correspondence from information technology consultant RB Tech regarding Microsoft 365 subscriptions for email access. Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Gates moved to purchase a Microsoft 365 basic subscription for use by the Barnet Zoning Administrative Officer. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote.

Old/Continuing Business

19. Consideration of, and take any action on, next steps in Town Hall project

a. Progress report

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt reported that plans are in place to move into the Town Hall March 17. The Town Office will be closed for the week of March 17 to March 21. Mr. Gates indicated that some punch list items remain to be completed, but they are progressing as planned and do not interfere with moving into the building.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for open house event

The Board further discussed plans for an open house event in April or May.

c. Other business

Fire & Rescue Chief Ronald Morse appeared and asked the Board if it would like the Fire & Rescue Department to purchase and install a fire key lock box for the Town Hall.

- The Board agreed to request that the Fire & Rescue Department purchase and install a fire key lock box for the Town Hall.

20. Consideration of, and take any action on, renewal of lease of library building space to Karne Choling

The Board reviewed correspondence from Karne Choling consisting of proposed amendments to the lease agreement. Ms. Ford reported on her discussions with Karne Choling regarding the agreement. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed that Ms. Ford will continue to discuss the proposed amendments with Karne Choling.

Check Warrants

21. Consideration of approval of outstanding check warrants

- The Board reviewed and approved all outstanding check warrants.

Executive Session(s) Anticipated

22. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, appointment of, and remuneration for, Zoning Administrative Officer

- Mr. Gates moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3) to discuss, appointment of, and remuneration for, a Zoning Administrative Officer. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:56 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Adams, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 8:01 p.m.
- No action taken

Adjournment

23. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Adams and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

A true copy. Attest: _____ Town Clerk